

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 /060 W

----- 039123

R 301525Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0893

INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PO

SUBJ: CENTRIST PARTY HOLDS SUCCESSFUL RALLY IN LISBON

1. THE FIRST PUBLIC RALLY HELD IN LISBON BY THE POLITICALLY MODERATE PARTIDO POPULAR DEMOCRATICO (PPD) EVOKED AN ENTHUSIASTIC PUBLIC RESPONSE. THE RALLY, HELD THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 25 IN LISBON'S SPORTS PAVILION, DREW A CROWD ESTIMATED AT TEN TO TWELVE THOUSAND, MANY OF WHOM COULD NOT FIND SPACE IN THE AUDITORIUM AND WHO LISTENED TO THE PROCEEDINGS BROADCAST THROUGH LOUDSPEAKERS. PPD LEADERS FRANCISCO SA CARNEIRO, CARLOS MOTA PINTO, AND MAGALHAES MOTA WERE EACH INTERRUPTED NUMEROUS TIMES BY APPLAUSE AND CHANTS FROM THE CROWD. OTHER SPEAKERS INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES OF YOUTH, LABOR, AND WOMEN. THEMES OF THE RALLY INCLUDED THE PPD'S RAPID GROWTH, ITS PRAGMATIC, NON-DOCTRINAIRE APPROACH, ITS SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES, AND POLITICAL MODERATION. LEGALIZATION OF DIVORCE AND A FREE (PLURALISTIC) LABOR MOVEMENT WERE

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ADVOCATED.

2. COMMENT: THE PPD RALLY SEEMED TO ATTRACT A HIGH
PROPORTION OF YOUNGISH, MIDDLE-CLASS EDUCATED COUPLES.
THE DEGREE OF SUPPORT EVIDENT FROM THESE ELEMENTS FOR
THE PPD'S BRAND OF POLITICAL MODERATION IS AN ENCOURAGING
DEVELOPMENT.
SCOTT

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